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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SECOND ANNUAL MORTON LEVY MEMORIAL LECTURE PRESENTS NOBEL LAUREATE MARSHALL NIRENBERG

The Second Annual Morton Levy Memorial Lecture on Sunday, March 24th at 7:30 p.m. at the Loch Haven Art Center, will present Marshall W. Nirenberg, Ph.D., recipient of the Nobel Prize in 1968 for uncovering the structure of the genetic code.

Dr. Nirenberg's discovery has important implications for genetic engineering and may one day provide the cure for certain inherited diseases. He will discuss the future of genetics and the importance of using this knowledge in an appropriate way.

The Morton Levy Memorial Lecture Series was created to perpetuate the memory of long-time Orlando physician Morton Levy, who died in 1983. The annual programs are devoted to preserving the ideals by which Dr. Levy lived his life and are presented by his family and colleagues from Orlando Regional Medical Center.

His wife, Rita Levy, says the lecture series deals with a part of living that was close to Dr. Levy's heart. "It's the philosophy of medicine--the philosophy of humanism--that says the patient, above all, is most important."

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Morton Levy was the grandson of a pioneer Jewish family that settled in Orlando in 1911. What made Dr. Levy unique in the medical community and in the lives of his patients and friends was the blending of his medical skills with his compassion and love of people. Dr. Levy felt that preserving the dignity of his patients was essential to their proper medical care.

"Morton Levy made a tremendous contribution toward raising the standard of medical ethics and medical practice in this community," says Barry Seiger, M.D., Chairman of the Morton Levy Memorial Lecture Committee. "It's because of that contribution that we honor Morton Levy with this annual lecturship."

The first Morton Levy Memorial Lecture was held in 1984 and featured Nobel Laureate Rosalyn Yalow, who discussed radioimmunoassay testing, a technique she developed which revolutionized biomedical research and laboratory diagnosis. Dr. Yalow's lecture focused on society's fear of radiation and the value of radioactive substances when used constructively in science and medicine.